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## £9.5 million contract awarded over new RAF Shawbury training centre

A £9.5 million contract has been awarded as part of a plan to build a state-of-the-art training centre at RAF Shawbury.



Briggs and Forrester Engineering Services Ltd has been handed the contract to provide mechanical, electrical and public health systems on the project.

It will work with Kier Construction on a mixture of refurbishment and new buildings which will host squadron and training functions.

The new training facility at the base will include a training school and a refurbishment of hangars on the site.

It will also be home to cutting-edge new flight simulators to help boost the training of recruits.



It comes after a new £1.1 billion contract was awarded in May to supply rotary wing training – effectively helicopter training – to the Armed Forces until the early 2030s.

“This is fantastic news for the future of our military aircrew at RAF Shawbury, who will benefit from the very latest training methods,” said Squadron Leader Kim Leach from Shawbury.

“In addition, older helicopters will be replaced with new, modern platforms that more accurately represent the aircraft used by front line operational squadrons.

“The delivery of the UK Military Flying Training System will ensure that the UK continues to be a world leader in military flying training.”

The development forms part of the MoD’s 15 year modernisation plan for its flying training programme and facilities.

The United Kingdom Military Flying Training System will involve the replacement of aircraft and the provision of new infrastructure at two military airfields in the UK, including RAF Shawbury and Middle Wallop in Hampshire.

The contract included the delivery of Airbus H135 and H145 training aircraft, and new facilities at RAF Shawbury to train future aircrew to use aircraft such as Apache, Chinook, Merlin and Wildcat.

Another contract was awarded in February for fixed-wing or aeroplane training, taking the total value of the UKMFTS contracts to £2.8 billion.

Ascent Flight Training, which was awarded the latest billion-pound contract, is a tie-up between engineering giant Babcock and American aerospace colossus Lockheed Martin.

RAF Shawbury is well-known as the home of helicopter training for the UK’s defence forces.